

A Study on Delinquency of the Mentally Retarded

著者	KIKUCHI TAKEKATSU, KODAMA SHOJI
journal or publication title	Tohoku psychologica folia
volume	37
page range	64-70
year	1979-03-20
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10097/00064909

A STUDY ON DELINQUENCY OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED

By

TAKEKATSU KIKUCHI (菊池武尅)

(Kyoto University of Education, Kyoto)

and

SHOJI KODAMA (小玉彰二)

(Osaka Clinical Center for the Mentally Retarded, Osaka)

The delinquency processes of the mentally retarded are followed up retrospectively, and classified into 4 groups. Subjects were selected from the mentally retarded delinquents who were clients of Osaka Clinical Center for the Mentally Retarded and 16 cases of them were especially studied and reported.

Delinquents contained in Group I were those whose delinquencies were occurred in direct relation to their rigid and limited adaptive behavior proper to the mental retardation, in other words, the so-called typical one to the delinquency of the mentally retarded.

Group II consisted of those who were able to adapt themselves to only jobs imposed on them, but not to human relations around them. Their mal-adjustment or dissatisfaction in human relations prepared the delinquent readiness to them.

Cases classified into Group III were those whose adaptive levels were lower than those of the cases Group II. Their experiences of self-actualizing by their adjusting deeply into the world of work were absent in them, and contrariwise, it developed in them a tendency to delinquency.

Delinquents contained in Group IV were those who failed to learn the consistent standard of behavior and value, because the standards of training or socializing in their families and living environments were confused. They were also liable to follow any delinquent leaders blindly.

INTRODUCTION

Most of researches on delinquency of the mentally retarded are divided into two large categories: (1) research on its actual conditions and (2) on its causes and motivations. It may be said that they have been done to find the characteristics of the mentally retarded delinquents in comparison with delinquents in general. But to understand their delinquencies more sufficiently, it is necessary to clarify how the conditions of mental retardation have influence on their delinquent processes.

Miyamoto et al. (1962) classified delinquency process of mentally retarded juvenile delinquents into 7 types and explained that M_0 , M_1 , M_2 , M_3 and M_4 types were typical to the delinquency of the mentally retarded. They, however, classified into types the process of developing delinquencies or problem behaviors, but not the relation between delinquency process and mental retardation.

Well, the delinquency is committed in the developmentally normal as well as in the retarded. So it is necessary to study delinquency of the mentally retarded in context of general theory, not to make an exception in favor of it. Function and relation of the mental retardation to occurrence of delinquency can be more sufficiently understood only when delinquent behaviors of the mentally retarded are placed in common framework of general theory of delinquency. Abe (1972) typologized 'the situation of criminal or delinquent readiness formation' into four types, which he called "Delinquent-Geno types",: A type (delinquent readiness is built in mal-adjustment to the dominant value in socializing channel for the delinquent to adjust.), B type (delinquent readiness is formed in adjustment to the values held in anti-social groups.), C type (delinquent readiness is formed in adjusting oneself to action standard of much inconsistency to socialization standard.), and D type (delinquent readiness formation is made in fixing one's adjustment in a too limited sphere of activity.).

First problem in this paper, thus, is to classify all cases into some groups according to Abe's typology. Secondly, in each group what a mechanism of delinquency is fundamental is discussed, and thirdly the relation between the mental retardation and the delinquency mechanism is to be explained. We attempted to study the case histories of mentally retarded delinquents, and to consider how their conditions of retardation (e.g. kinds and degree of their mental disturbance) influenced the adjustments/mal-adjustments in their social lives and resulted in preparation and occurrence of delinquency or not. In other words, we attempted to discuss the relationship between the socialization process and the anti-socialization process of the mentally retarded.

SUBJECTS AND PROCEDURE

Subjects were selected from the mentally retarded delinquents who have been clients of Osaka Clinical Center for the Mental Retarded, and 16 male delinquents are especially studied and reported here. Documents of each subject were analyzed in details and rearranged, and interviews with subjects were also made.

RESULTS

16 cases were classified into four large groups (see Table 1).

Delinquents contained in Group I are those whose delinquencies have been committed in direct relation to the rigidity or the limitation of their adaptive behaviors proper to the mental retardation. They have been called as typical delinquencies of the mentally retarded. 'Setting fire on a house' in case 1. is nearly a primitive response roused by a simple motive. Case 3. was of autistic character and had run away from home frequently, and resulted in riding in a train free of charge and jumping a lunchroom bill. Delinquency in this group is committed as a deviant behavior not adjusted to legal norms as a rule. It may safely be said that the intellectual retardation of the delinquents brings the non-adjustment to legal norms.

Table

Case No.	Age (Binet type)	IQ	Social maturity	Remarkable events in life history	
Group I	1.	27	34	Considerably disabled	Went to weak children's class since he was 8 years old. Often ran away from home. His mother is schizophrenic.
	2.	23	27+	Badly disabled	Was taken over in a home for mentally retarded children at the age of 10. . Often ran away from home.
	3.	21	50	Considerably disabled	Ran away from home frequently. Had vagrant habits from childhood. Was autistic.
	4.	30	55	Mildly disabled (in performance)	Had a weak constitution. Went to highschool, but was expelled from school at the request of the principal on account of his delinquency; Shoplifting.
Group II	5.	27	53	Mildly disabled, conservative	His mother died at the age of 3. Often played truant from weak children's class, and played with fire.
	6.	25	47	Mildly disabled	His mother died at 9, stole money at school, changed his occupations frequently.
	7.	21	67	Mildly disabled	Often spent money belonging to his family without leave., Borke into his neighbor's home.
	8.	25	44	Mildly disabled	His mother was alcoholic. Was brought up amidst destitution. Preferred money in his work place.
Group III	9.	24	46	Considerably disabled especially in writing and counting	Offended sex crimes.
	10.	23 presumed 30-40		Considerably disabled, mutism	Was brought up in disorganized family. Ran away from home. Stole frequently.
	11.	23	45	Considerably disabled in reading and counting, taciturn	Was brought up in disorganized family. Vagabondism and stole.
	12.	21	50	Considerably disabled, talkative	Often hazed little children.
Group IV	13.	30	35	Considerably disabled especially in writing and counting, taciturn	Had tendency to fetishism. Was enthusiastic for seeing strip-show.
	14.	26	51	Mildly disabled	Often spent money of parents without leave. His father was divorced from his mother at 17.
	15.	21	51	Mildly disabled	Snatched cheap candies from neighboring candy stores.
	16.	19	50	Mildly disabled, conservative	Came to a big city from a rural village. Stole bicycles. Interned in a public reform school.

1.

Delinquent behaviors	Ajustment to his referent region	Attitude toward law
Set fire to a house out of irritation because of losing money in playing and was caught in the act. Often set fire.	Was adjusted to his occupation as a garbage man. Set fire to his home. often gave up his job.	Ignorant Non-adjusted
Ride in a car free of charge and jumped a restaurant bill.	Did not adjust actively to his home.	Ignorant
Ran away from home. Theft from a parked car.	Was dismissed for his repeated absences without leave from his place of work.	Repulsive
Set fire to a neighboring house.	Worked and lived in his master's home, was deserted by his working associates.	Despise
Pilfered.	Changed his employment often.	Despise
Pilfered money in the place of employment.	Changed his employment often.	Despise
Pilfered money in his training center. Had sexual relations with a several female colleagues.	Was rejected from his employment place because of his stealing money from colleagues.	Despise
Cut a woman's skirt in a street car.	Did only assigned task to him. Had no friend.	Despise
Pilfered money in his employment place, and spent it to play with slot-machine game.	Was rejected in his employment because of his repeated stealing money.	Despise
Pilfered money from cars parked on the road, and spent it to play with prostitutes.	Performed only a task assigned to him. Had no friend.	Despise
Homosexuality. Pilfered money in his institution.	Relatively adaptive to his family and institution.	Despise
Stole someone's bag without attracting his attention. Pilfered money, spent it to play games.	Took to fast living after conforming himself to confused value standards in a construction camp. Was absence without leave from place of work.	Temporizingly adaptive
An attempted safebreaking. Extorted money from his relatives.	Mal-adjusted to occupation. Was let alone by parents. Kept bad company.	Not respect
Trespassed on neighboring houses and stole money.	Was let alone by parents. Worked as a hod carrier but was frequently absent without leave. Was indulged in pinball games.	Not respect
Stole motor-bikes, and drive them without a license.	Was repeatedly interned in public reform schools.	Not respect

Delinquents belonging to this group are generally of low intellectual level (under IQ 40 by Binet type) or have some other abnormal tendencies simultaneously. The low level of intelligence or some abnormal tendencies may limit and impede their adjustment to the standard of socialization and control values. Delinquency of Group I maybe has something in common with the Delinquent-Geno type D.

Delinquents classified into Group II are of a little higher intellectual level and social maturity than other groups. Most of them have some occupational experiences, but are not sufficiently self-supporting. Many of them have changed their occupations frequently. Though case 5 and case 7 can find work for themselves, they are prone to maladjust especially in the human relations in their working places.

Intelligence and work competence are certainly superior to other three groups, so they are apt to set their goals of occupational adaptation at the same level as normal workers, and to claim the same treatment too. But they can not win the same as the normal, and fail to obtain their proper self-esteem. In consequence, these mal-adjustments have ruined their hearts and egos, so they come to be mal-adjusted to the whole situation of work. It results in forming an attitude repulsive to norms including legal standards. Delinquency which occurs in this way is to be classified into the Delinquent Geno type A.

Their delinquencies have almost the same variation as those of the normal intelligence, yet their delinquent techniques are poorer than normally intelligent delinquents to some extent.

Group III consists of those whose adaptive level is lower and whose sphere of social activity is more limited than Group II. Unlike Group II, their egos have been little ruined by serious mal-adjustment in their vocational lives, because their deep adjustment in vocational region has been disturbed by their mental retardation, and their experiences of self-actualization in adjusting themselves deeply into the world of work have been often absent. The absence of deep adjustment in socialization has been related with their inclination to delinquency (Delinquent-Geno type A).

Contents of delinquency in this group are influenced by their personal tendencies of character or behavior remarkably. Case 10. and 11. were unsocial and solitude-loving, so their delinquencies were restricted to larcenies and their techniques had not been so much developed. On the other hand, case 8 and case 12 have little difficulty in adjusting themselves to personal relations in everyday life, and their delinquencies are not limited to only one type, but develop to such as sex delinquencies, homosexualities and so on.

The difference of mental disability recognized between Group II and III may function in dividing a mal-adjust-type in the former from a type of absence of deep-adjustment in the latter, although a common mechanism of the Delinquent-Geno type A is to be recognized in both Groups II and III.

Delinquents classified into Group IV are those who fails to learn a consistent and firm standard of value and behavior, because the norms of training or socializing them

in their families and living environments have been confused or inconsistent (Delinquent-Geno type C). They simply set much value only on fulfilling needs in each occasion and can't tell right from wrong, so that they come to do either good deeds or delinquencies so long as they are interesting for them. They are also liable to follow a delinquent leader blindly.

Case 13. and case 15. conformed to confused and inconsistent conditions of value of which the construction camp is full, while some troubles in their families and inconsistent discipline of their parents were pointed out in case 14 and case 16. In these situations, case 14 resulted in joining bad company.

In these cases, causes of delinquencies seem to be imputable to the problematic conditions in their environments, rather than the degree of intelligence. Their mental retardation have some relations with their higher conformity as a result of absence of criticism or self control. Delinquents in this Group are often absorbed in unwholesome amusements, in which anti-social values seem attractive for them, so that their stabilization of livelihood come near being destroyed by their own absorbing in these amusements.

DISCUSSION

The relations of the mental retardation to delinquency formation were classified into four groups, which were based in a great degree on Abe's theoretical constructs of delinquency. Delinquent-Geno type A consisted of two sub types: Group II and III, in this research. The former failed to obtain the same self-esteem of their own as the normal workers, while the latter could not experience a feeling of satisfaction or interest in the domain of work.

Delinquents in Group I had a problem in the rigidity or limitedness of their adaptive behaviors attributed to their inner or personal handicaps, while by contrast, in those of Group IV a tendency was pointed out that they were very liable to conform to environmental (even criminal) conditions.

Considering the above-mentioned, it seems to come out that Group I and Group IV lend contrast to each other, and Group II and III give also contrast to each other in a different dimension.

Next, let us expatiate on this question by applying it to the Delinquent-Geno type as follows: C type has high conformity to the environmental criminal conditions as a basic character of its delinquent readiness formation, while on the contrary, D type has a basic character of excessive perseverance of personal tendencies of reaction or behavior.

Delinquents in A type seems to be put in various positions on this conformity-perseverance dimension. Therefore it is considered that the fundamental character of A type is to be searched for in a different dimension. If it is to be an experience of mal-adjustment to the socialization, it may be contrast to B type, where the delinquency is to be regarded to occur in form of adjustment to the anti-social values.

To sum up, it may safely be said that the formation of delinquency is to be understood by searching for a suitable position in relation of two dimensions: "conformity

to criminal environment—perseverance of personal tendency”, “mal-adjustment to socialization—adjustment to anti-social values”.

It is, however, only inferred from case study of a very small number of mentally retarded delinquents. The delinquency of the mentally retarded has an advantage in showing the mechanism of delinquent behavior in simple pattern, but it may be erroneous to apply this conclusion immediately to every delinquent of normal intelligence.

REFERENCES

- Abe, J. 1972, On The Structure and Situation of Crime and Delinquency. *Tohoku Psychologica Folia* 31.
- Miyamoto, S., Nishimura, H. and Saheki, S. 1962, A Study on Delinquency Process of Mentally Retarded Juvenile Delinquents. *Reports of National Research Institute of Police Science*. 3.

(Received October 31, 1978)